MARVEL KNIGHTS

THE SENTRY X-MEN

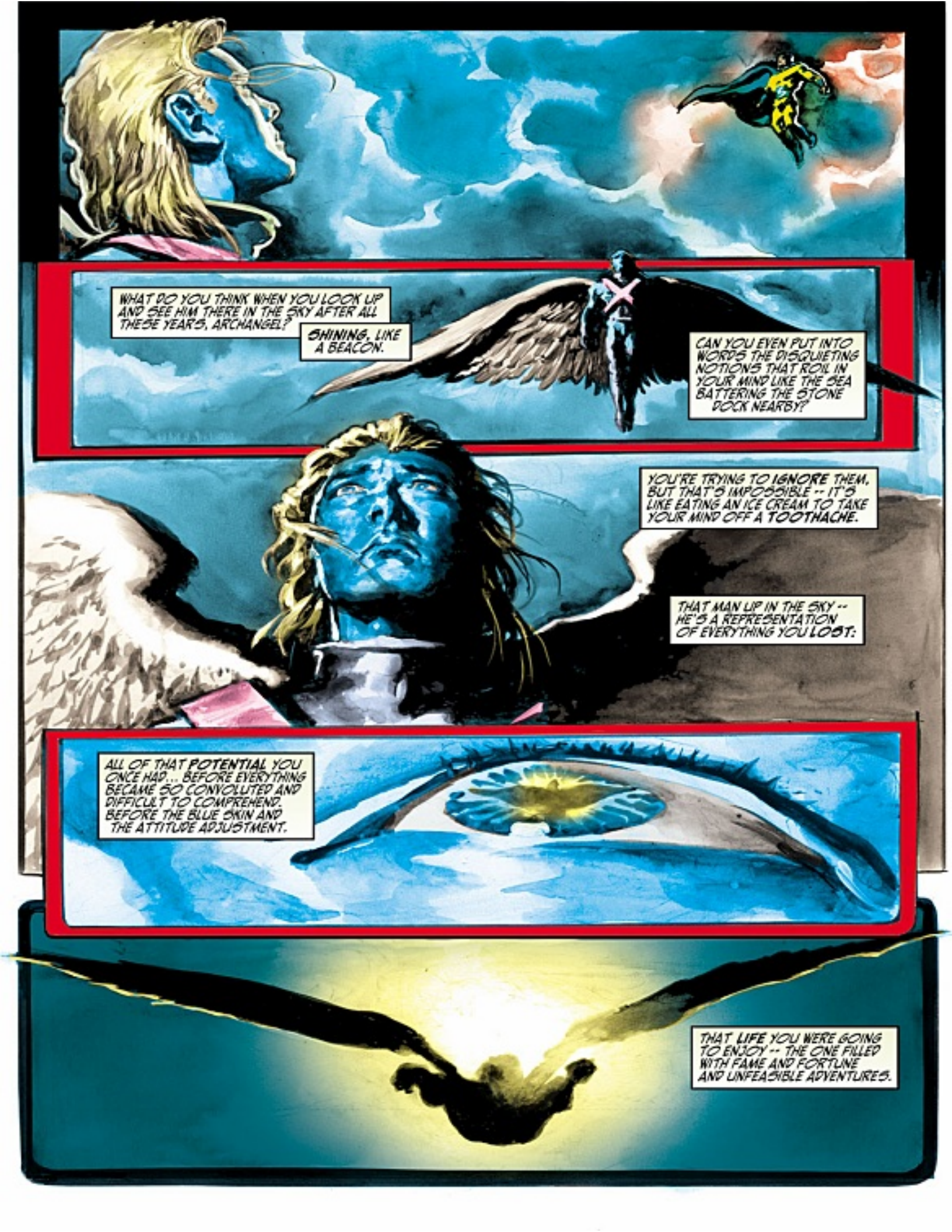
MARVEL COMICS

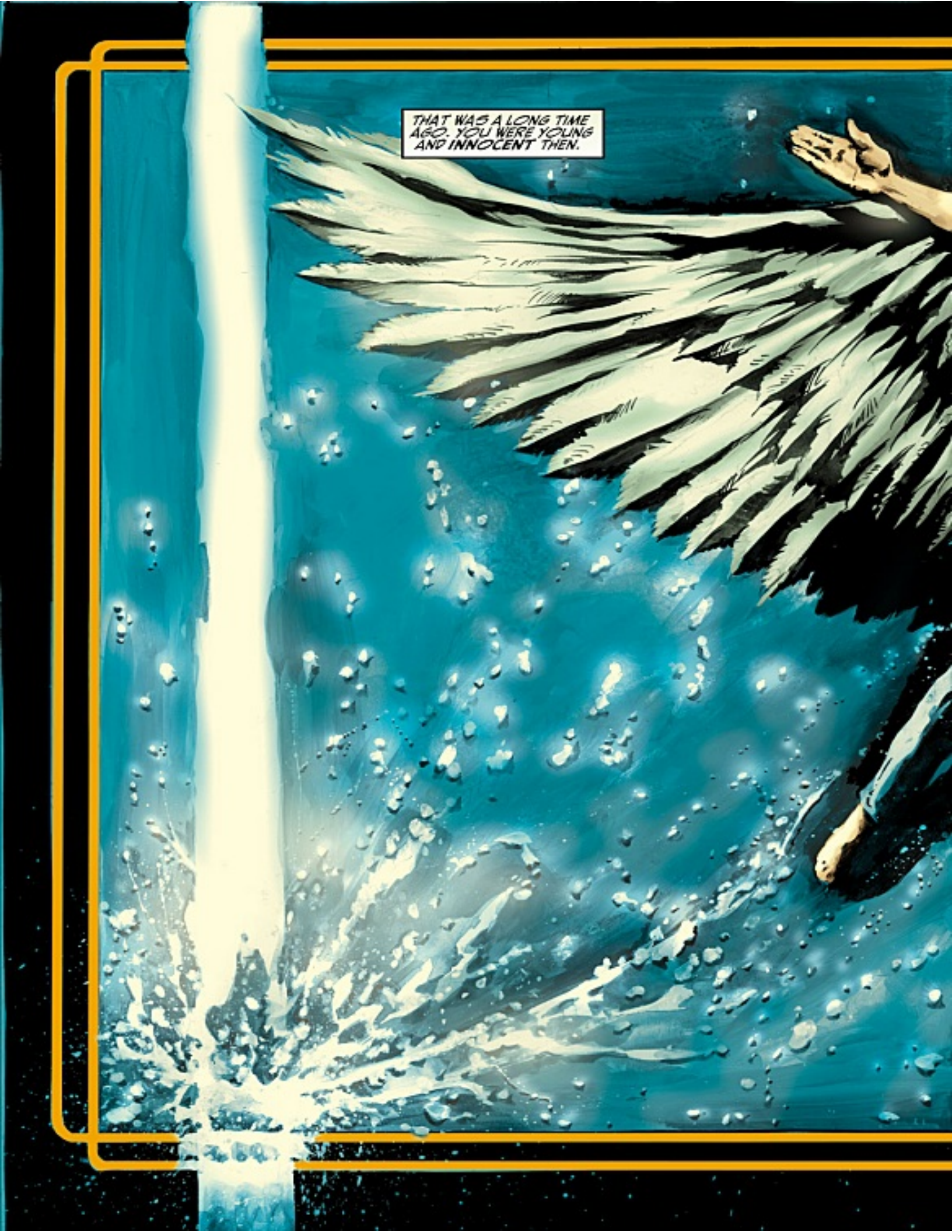
JENKINS
TEXEIRA

WWW.MARVEL.COM

YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FLY TODAY, ARCHANGEL.
FASTER, HIGHER... BETTER THAN EVER BEFORE.

BEFORE THIS DAY IS THROUGH, YOU AND ALL THE OTHER HEROES ARE GOING TO HAVE TO OVERCOME THE IMPOSSIBLE. COLLECTIVELY, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO OUTPERFORM YOUR INDIVIDUAL SELVES.
BECAUSE THE VOID HAS RETURNED -- THAT INDISCRIMINATE DEVIL OF THE DARKNESS COME TO DEVOUR THE SPIRITS OF HUMAN AND MUTANT ALIKE.
HE'S HALF A MILE OFFSHORE AND CLOSING RAPIDLY. AND WHEN HE GETS HERE, THE RESULTING STORM IS GOING TO BLOW YOU ALL AWAY.
THERE IS ONLY ONE HOPE FOR THE UNIVERSE NOW -- ONE MAN WHO STANDS IN THE WAY OF THE BEAST.
AN ALMOST-GOD WHO GLOWS WITH AN INNER LIGHT.
THE SENTRY


WHAT DO YOU THINK WHEN YOU LOOK UP AND SEE HIM THERE IN THE SKY AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, ARCHANGEL?
SHINING, LIKE A BEACON.
CAN YOU EVEN PUT INTO WORDS THE DISQUIETING NOTIONS THAT ROIL IN YOUR MIND LIKE THE SEA BATTERING THE STONE DOCK NEARBY?
YOU'RE TRYING TO IGNORE THEM, BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE -- IT'S LIKE EATING AN ICE CREAM TO TAKE YOUR MIND OFF A TOOTHACHE.
THAT MAN UP IN THE SKY -- HE'S A REPRESENTATION OF EVERYTHING YOU LOST:
ALL OF THAT POTENTIAL YOU ONCE HAD... BEFORE EVERYTHING BECAME SO CONVOLUTED AND DIFFICULT TO COMPREHEND. BEFORE THE BLUE SKIN AND THE ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT.
THAT LIFE YOU WERE GOING TO ENJOY -- THE ONE FILLED WITH FAME AND FORTUNE AND UNFEASIBLE ADVENTURES.


THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO. YOU WERE YOUNG AND INNOCENT THEN.

AND STILL BEAUTIFUL.
STAN LEE PRESENTS
THE SENTRY & ANGEL OF THE X-MEN
PAUL JENKINS WRITER
MARK TEXEIRA ARTIST
JOSE VILLARRUBIA COLORIST
RS & COMICRAFT'S JOHN ROSHELL LETTERING
MIKE RAICHT ASST. EDITOR
MIKE MARTS EDITOR
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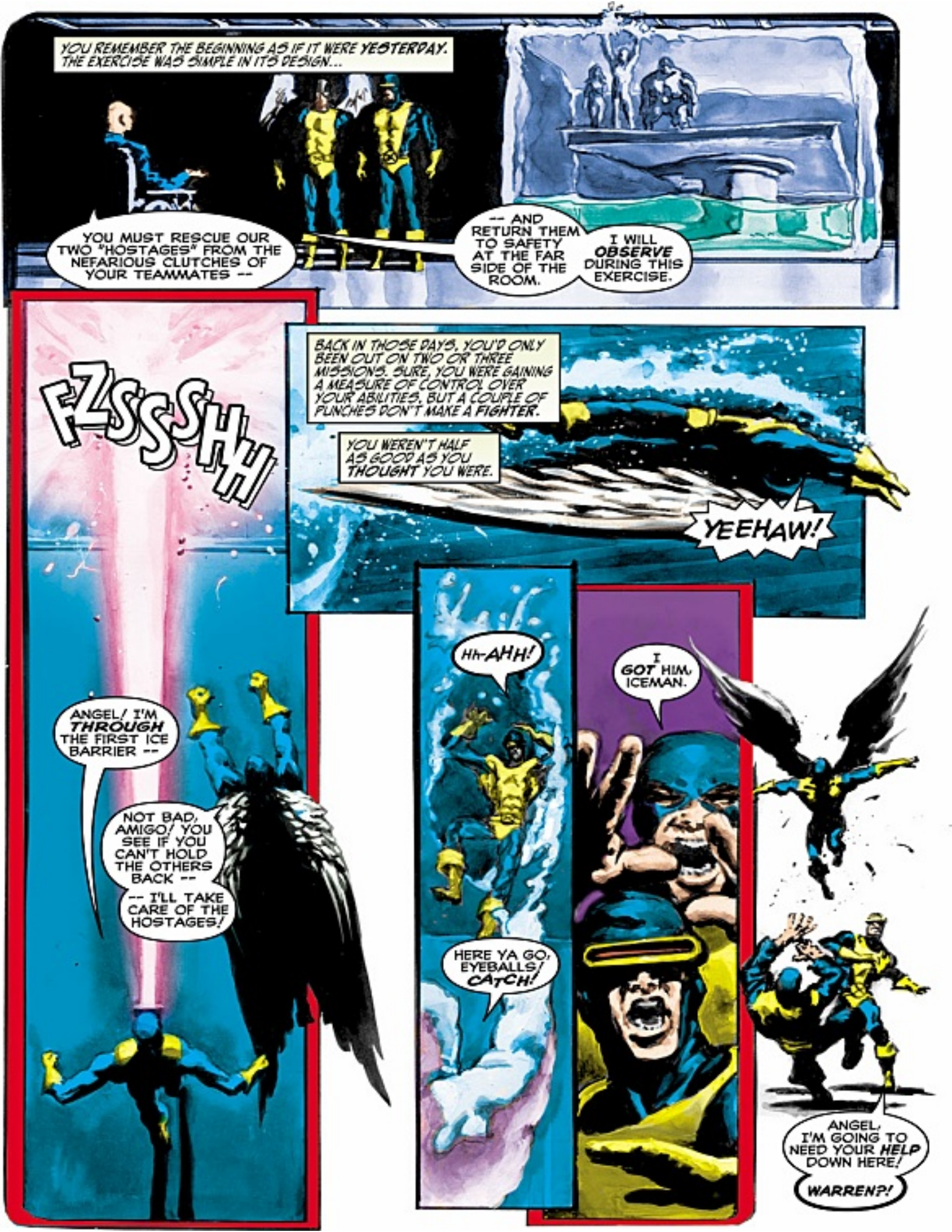
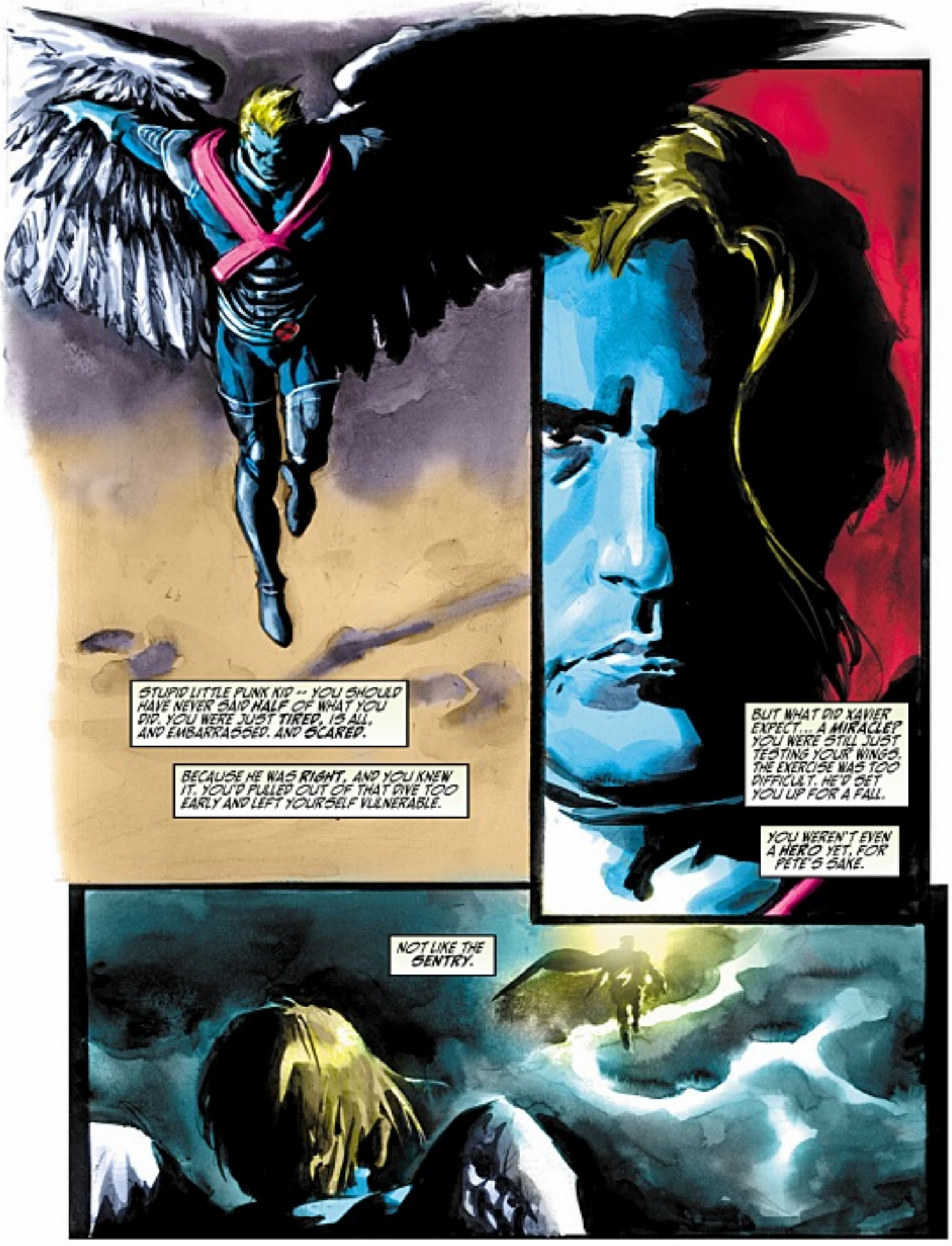
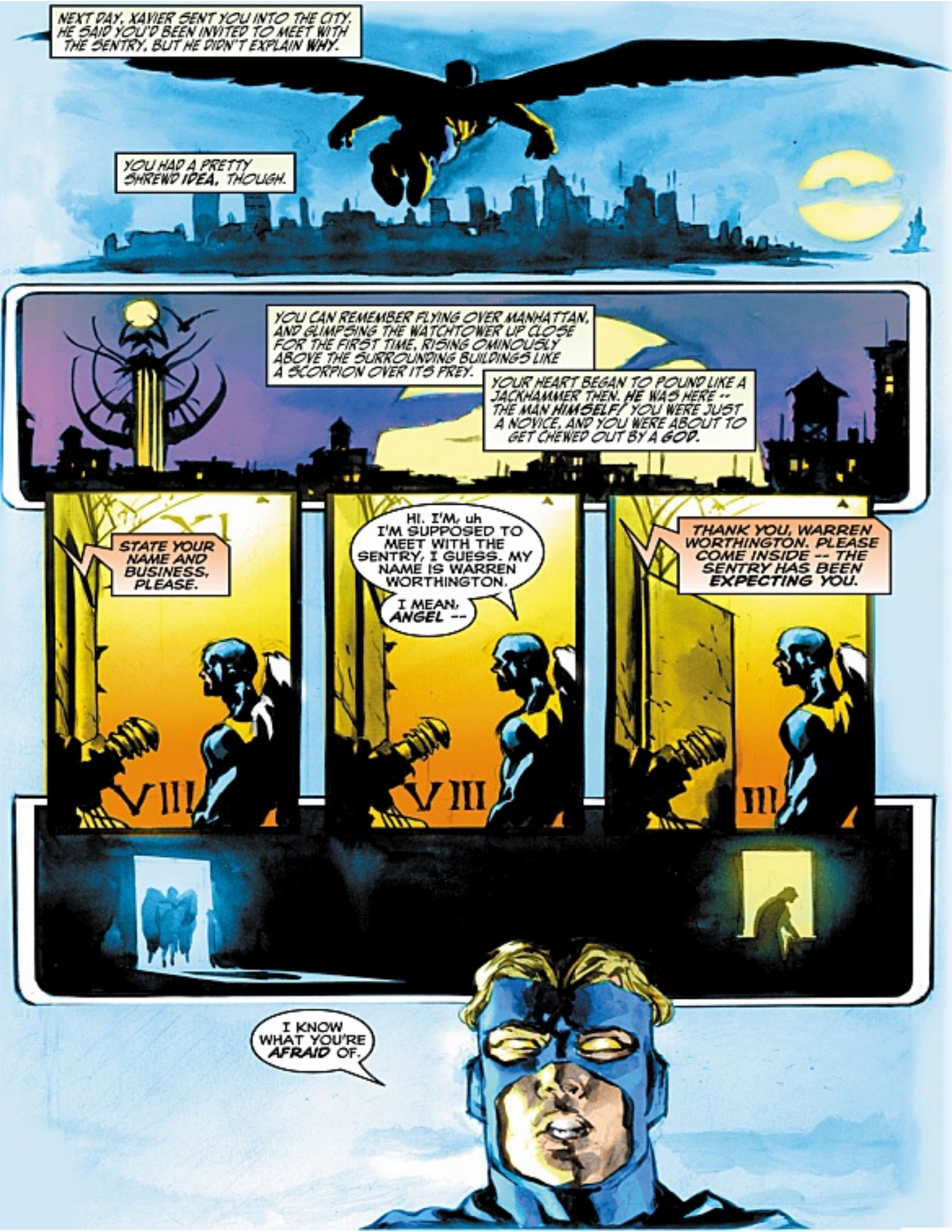

YOU REMEMBER THE BEGINNING AS IF IT WERE YESTERDAY. THE EXERCISE WAS SIMPLE IN ITS DESIGN...
YOU MUST RESCUE OUR TWO "HOSTAGES" FROM THE NEFARIOUS CLUTCHES OF YOUR TEAMMATES --
-- AND RETURN THEM TO SAFETY AT THE FAR SIDE OF THE ROOM.
I WILL OBSERVE DURING THIS EXERCISE.
FZSSSHH!
BACK IN THOSE DAYS, YOU'D ONLY BEEN OUT ON TWO OR THREE MISSIONS. SURE, YOU WERE GAINING A MEASURE OF CONTROL OVER YOUR ABILITIES, BUT A COUPLE OF PUNCHES DON'T MAKE A FIGHTER.
YOU WEREN'T HALF AS GOOD AS YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE.
YEEHAW!
ANGEL/ I'M THROUGH THE FIRST ICE BARRIER --
NOT BAD, AMIGO/ YOU SEE IF YOU CAN'T HOLD THE OTHERS BACK --
-- I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE HOSTAGES/
Hh-AHH!
HERE YA GO, EYEBALLS/ CATCH!
I GOT HIM, ICEMAN.
ANGEL, I'M GOING TO NEED YOUR HELP DOWN HERE!
WARREN?!

JUST A FEW SECONDS MORE, CYCLOPS! I'M ALMOST THERE -- !
HEY, BIG BOY -- REMEMBER ME?
Hnn... WHAT -- ?
SHOOM
Ah-UHH!
KRASH
ENOUGH!

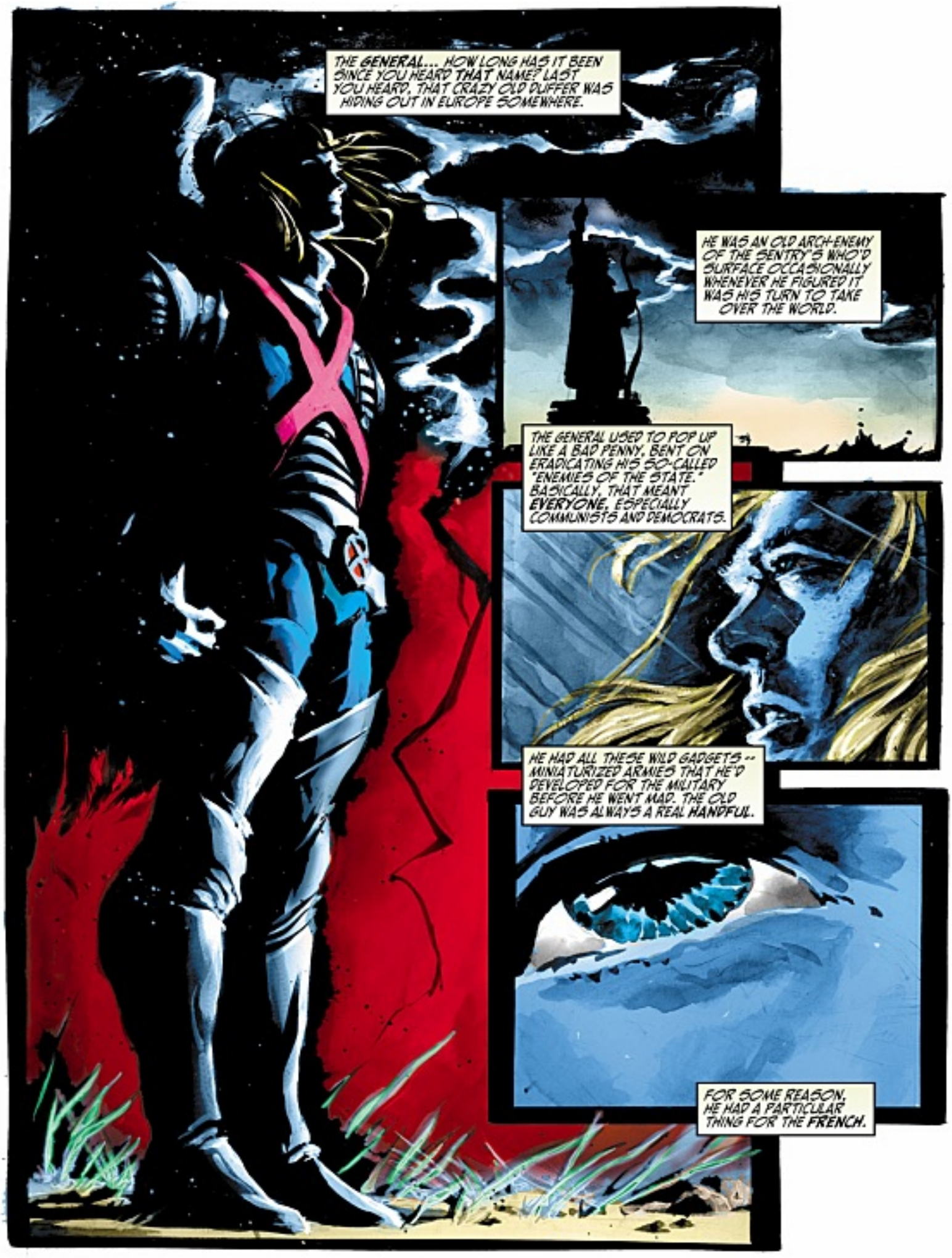
ANGEL, YOUR MISTAKE COULD HAVE BEEN *EASILY* AVOIDED -- YOU SHOULD HAVE HELPED CYCLOPS TO ELIMINATE THE FIRST OBSTACLE. THE SECOND WOULD HAVE BEEN QUICKLY OVERCOME.
IN THIS CASE, YOUR PARTNER WOULD MOST CERTAINLY HAVE BEEN OVERPOWERED AND THE HOSTAGES KILLED *ALSO*. THREE LIVES LOST FOR THE SAKE OF ONE MOMENT OF BRAVADO.
IN THE WORDS OF ALEXANDER: "*ONLY A FEARFUL MAN RUSHES BLINDLY TOWARDS DEATH* -- "
FEARFUL? JEEZ GIMME JUST A *SMALL* BREAK, WHY DON'T YOU, PROFESSOR?
YOU THINK YOU'RE SO FREAKIN' *SPECIAL* 'CAUSE YOU GOT THAT ZEN-MASTER-OF-THE-MIND SPEECH ALL REHEARSED AND READY TO GO, BUT HAVE YOU EVER PULLED A BARREL ROLL UNDER HEAVY FIRE? NO, I DIDN'T *THINK* SO.
HEY, HERE'S A THOUGHT: WHY DON'T YOU LOOK ME UP WHEN *YOU* MASTER THE ART OF FLIGHT?


STUPID LITTLE PUNK KID -- YOU SHOULD HAVE NEVER SAID HALF OF WHAT YOU DID. YOU WERE JUST TIRED, IT'S ALL, AND EMBARRASSED. AND SCARED.
BECAUSE HE WAS RIGHT, AND YOU KNEW IT. YOU'D PULLED OUT OF THAT DIVE TOO EARLY AND LEFT YOURSELF VULNERABLE.
BUT WHAT DID XAVIER EXPECT... A MIRACLE? YOU WERE STILL JUST TESTING YOUR WINGS. THE EXERCISE WAS TOO DIFFICULT. HE'D SET YOU UP FOR A FALL.
YOU WEREN'T EVEN A HERO YET, FOR PETE'S SAKE.
NOT LIKE THE SENTRY.


NEXT DAY, XAVIER SENT YOU INTO THE CITY. HE SAID YOU'D BEEN INVITED TO MEET WITH THE SENTRY. BUT HE DIDN'T EXPLAIN WHY.
YOU HAD A PRETTY SHREWD IDEA, THOUGH.
YOU CAN REMEMBER FLYING OVER MANHATTAN, AND GLIMPSING THE WATCHTOWER UP CLOSE FOR THE FIRST TIME, RISING OMINOUSLY ABOVE THE SURROUNDING BUILDINGS LIKE A SCORPION OVER ITS PREY.
YOUR HEART BEGAN TO POUND LIKE A JACKHAMMER THEN. HE WAS HERE -- THE MAN HIMSELF! YOU WERE JUST A NOVICE, AND YOU WERE ABOUT TO GET CHEWED OUT BY A GOD.
STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS, PLEASE.
HI. I'M, uh I'M SUPPOSED TO MEET WITH THE SENTRY, I GUESS. MY NAME IS WARREN WORTHINGTON.
I MEAN, ANGEL --
THANK YOU, WARREN WORTHINGTON. PLEASE COME INSIDE -- THE SENTRY HAS BEEN EXPECTING YOU.
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE AFRAID OF.

I'M NOT AFRAID --
YOU'D BE A FOOL IF YOU *WEREN'T,* SON.
XAVIER SENT ME VIDEO CAPTURES OF THE TRAINING EXERCISE YOU AND THE OTHERS WERE PUT THROUGH LAST NIGHT.
YOU PULLED OUT OF THAT DIVE TOO *EARLY* AND LOST CONTROL BECAUSE YOU WERE AFRAID YOU'D HIT THE PLATFORM IF YOU WENT TOO CLOSE.
THAT DOESN'T MAKE ME A *COWARD* --
IT WASN'T COWARDICE -- NO ONE'S BLAMING YOU FOR THAT. IT WAS SELF-*PRESERVATION.* BELIEVE ME, I UNDERSTAND ABOUT BEING AFRAID --
YOU? BUT YOU'RE THE SENTRY WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME *YOU* WERE SCARED?
I'M SCARED ALL THE *TIME,* WARREN.
BUT I'VE LEARNED OVER THE YEARS THAT IT HURTS MORE TO *FAIL* THAN TO FALL.

I...I DON'T GET IT. IF YOU *FALL*, YOU FAIL *ANYWAY* --
BRUISES GO *AWAY* AFTER A WHILE, SON. IT'S A LOT HARDER TO SHAKE THE MEMORY OF WHERE YOU MADE YOUR MISTAKE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
IN OUR LINE OF WORK, YOU MIGHT GET HURT -- MAYBE EVEN GET YOURSELF KILLED -- BUT THERE'S SO MUCH RIDING ON WHAT YOU DO, YOUR OWN WELL-BEING HAS TO BECOME SECONDARY.
ONCE YOU ACCEPT THAT RESPONSIBILITY, YOU'LL SEE THINGS FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE. HEY, YOU MIGHT EVENTUALLY FIND A WAY TO *ENJOY* YOURSELF.
*SENTRY... PLEASE FORGIVE THIS INTRUSION, BUT IT APPEARS WE HAVE A **DISTURBANCE**.*
DON'T APOLOGIZE, CLOC. WHAT *KIND* OF DISTURBANCE?
*I'M RECEIVING REPORTS FROM THE WHITLOW MISSILE SILO IN MASSACHUSETTS -- THEY HAVE BEEN ATTACKED AND QUITE POSSIBLY **SUBDUED** BY MINIATURIZED SOLDIERS AND ASSORTED BATTLECRAFT.*
GENERAL!


THE GENERAL... HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE YOU HEARD THAT NAME? LAST YOU HEARD, THAT CRAZY OLD DUFFER WAS HIDING OUT IN EUROPE SOMEWHERE.
HE WAS AN OLD ARCH-ENEMY OF THE SENTRY'S WHO'D SURFACE OCCASIONALLY WHENEVER HE FIGURED IT WAS HIS TURN TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD.
THE GENERAL USED TO POP UP LIKE A BAD PENNY, BENT ON ERADICATING HIS SO-CALLED "ENEMIES OF THE STATE." BASICALLY, THAT MEANT EVERYONE, ESPECIALLY COMMUNISTS AND DEMOCRATS.
HE HAD ALL THESE WILD GADGETS -- MINIATURIZED ARMIES THAT HE'D DEVELOPED FOR THE MILITARY BEFORE HE WENT MAD. THE OLD GUY WAS ALWAYS A REAL HANDFUL.
FOR SOME REASON, HE HAD A PARTICULAR THING FOR THE FRENCH.

STARTLING STORIES Featuring
THE SENTRY!
AND
the X-MEN
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢
THE GOLDEN GUARDIAN OF GOOD JOINS THE WORLD'S MOST AMAZING TEEN-AGERS!
DON'T MISS THIS TITANIC TEAM-UP!!
IN THE MARVELOUS MARVEL STYLE!
READ ON, TRUE BELIEVERS, AS SENTRY AND THE X-MEN TAKE ON THE... CRAZED GENERAL!
IN THIS, THE GREATEST ADVENTURE EVER SEEN!!

HOW YOU GOT OUT TO THAT SILO REMAINS A BLUR EVEN TO THIS DAY. YOU VAGUELY REMEMBER RIDING THE SENTRY'S UPDRAFT, AND MEETING UP WITH THE OTHERS OUTSIDE THE BASE, BUT LITTLE ELSE. THE PLACE WAS SILENT, AND STREWN WITH CORPSES.
IF SENTRY HAD WANTED YOU TO BE AFRAID, HE NOW HAD HIS WISH. THE X-MEN HAD FACED A COUPLE OF VILLAINS -- YOU'D EVEN SURVIVED A MINOR SCUFFLE WITH MAGNETO -- BUT NEVER ANYTHING LIKE THIS.
SENTRY WENT IN FIRST AND IMMEDIATELY ENCOUNTERED A BARRAGE OF LASER BLASTS. HE WAS LOST FROM SIGHT, AND IN AN INSTANT YOU AND THE OTHERS WERE SURROUNDED BY THE GENERAL'S ROBOTIC ARMY.
IT WAS ALMOST OVER BEFORE IT STARTED --
GET DOWN!
KRA-
KA-
BOOM

SENTRY, WHAT HAPPENED HERE? THIS PLACE IS DESERTED.
THAT'S THE GENERAL'S M.O. -- HE SENDS HIS DRONES IN WAVES. THE SOLDIERS STATIONED HERE DIDN'T STAND A CHANCE --
LOOK!
WELL, WELL...IF IT ISN'T THE MIGHTY SENTRY AND HIS GANG OF NEOPHYTES COME TO STOP ME.
I HOPE YOU LIKE FIREWORKS, KIDS -- WE'RE GOING TO BLOW UP FRANCE! Ah-hehh!
YOU'RE CRAZY, GENERAL--!
CRAZY LIKE A FOX, BOYO. THIS TIME, I'M GOING TO TAKE CARE OF THOSE COMMIE PINKO FROG-MUNCHERS... AND THERE'S NOTHING ANY OF YOU CAN DO TO STOP ME!
NOT A CHANCE, GENERAL. YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SET OFF THOSE WEAPONS -- I WON'T LET IT HAPPEN!
TOO LATE, SENTRY -- I ALREADY DID! FIVE MINUTES AGO!
10:45
Ah-HA HA HA HA...!

NO TIME TO WASTE -- I'VE GOT TO GET TO THOSE MISSILES. ANGEL, CAN I COUNT ON YOU?
S-SURE...
GOOD.
BOOM
GET 'EM, MY BEAUTIES!
BAM
BAM
BAM
AAH! MY EYES! I CAN'T SEE --
BAM

Uhh... MY WINGS ARE CAUGHT...
...SOME KIND OF...CARBON FILAMENT...
KRASH
HA HA! THIRTY-FIVE SECONDS! A NEW COMPANY RECORD!
THAT'S WHY YOU NEVER SEND A CHILD TO DO A SOLDIER'S WORK, CADETS! EVEN THE SENTRY, FOR ALL HIS MIGHT, SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER.
THINK AGAIN, YOU OLD LOON. I'D SAY YOUR MASTER PLAN'S ABOUT HAD IT --
WHAT? NO, IT CAN'T BE... HE'S DISABLING ALL THE WARHEADS.
MY BEAUTIFUL NEW TOYS! HE'S RUINING THEM!
"HE'S CLOSING IN ON THE FINAL MISSILE... HE THINKS HE'S GOING TO BRING IT DOWN LIKE ALL THE OTHERS, DOES HE?"
WELL, I WON'T LET HIM HAVE IT... DO YOU HEAR ME? ONLY I GET TO BLOW THINGS UP AROUND HERE --

KA-THROOM
SENTRY! NOOOO!

AS YOU LAY THERE ABOVE THE SILO'S CONTROL ROOM WITH THAT OLD NUTCASE RANTING AND RAVING BELOW, YOU WERE MOMENTARILY STRICKEN BY THOSE OLD FEARS.
THE SENTRY WAS GONE... YOU AND THE X-MEN HAD BEEN DEFEATED IN A MATTER OF SECONDS.
WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO HAVE LEARNED A LESSON IN HERE SOMEWHERE?
PAY ATTENTION, CADETS -- YOU'RE WITNESSING THE FIRST RULE OF BATTLE: NEVER SHOW YOUR HAND UNTIL YOU'RE SURE YOU'VE WON.
IN THIS CASE, WITH THE SENTRY CURRENTLY FALLING TOWARDS EARTH IN A MILLION PIECES...
...I THINK NOW WOULD BE AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY TO RELEASE THE OTHER HALF OF THE NUCLEAR WARHEADS I HAVE AT MY DISPOSAL.
"ZUT ALORS!" AH-HA HA HA..!
AND THAT'S WHEN YOU REALIZED WHAT THE SENTRY HAD BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU. HE WAS GONE NOW -- BUT THAT DIDN'T MEAN THE FIGHT WAS OVER.
YOU STOOD THERE AND LOOKED OVER THE PRECIPICE, YOUR WINGS BOUND AND USELESS. BETWEEN YOU AND THE DEATHS OF MILLIONS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE WAS A DROP OF ABOUT FORTY FEET.
AND A BIG DECISION: YOUR DEATH OR THEIRS.
...OH, MAN...I CAN'T...
...I JUST CAN'T...
BUT YOU WERE GOING TO ANYWAY...

IN THOSE FEW BRIEF SECONDS AS YOU PLUMMETED LIKE A CARTOON ANVIL TOWARDS EARTH, YOU FINALLY UNDERSTOOD WHAT THE SENTRY HAD TRIED TO TEACH YOU BEFORE HE DIED.
YOU'D BEEN LIBERATED -- NOT FROM THE CONSTRAINTS OF GRAVITY, BUT FROM YOUR FEAR OF IT.
FOR THE LAST FIFTEEN FEET OR SO, YOU ACTUALLY THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO LAUGH OUT LOUD --
AS YOU FELL, YOU BEGAN TO FEEL AN EXHILARATION YOU'D NEVER FELT WHEN YOU'D HAD WINGS AT YOUR DISPOSAL. THIS WAS THE MOST YOU'D EVER ENJOYED FLYING.
KRASH
=Huff=
WARREN? YOU OKAY..?

NO HARM, NO FOUL... YOU WERE PRETTY BEAT UP, BUT A FEW BUSTED RIBS AND A TORN WING WEREN'T GOING TO STOP YOU FROM GETTING OUTSIDE UNDER YOUR OWN STEAM. YOU STILL THOUGHT YOU HAD SOMETHING TO PROVE --
I... I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S DEAD --
DON'T TRY TO SPEAK, MAN. LET'S GET YOU BACK HOME --
Y-Y'KNOW WHAT HE TOLD ME, SCOTTY... BEFORE HE...nnn... BEFORE HE...
OMIGOD.
BEFORE I WHAT?
Hhh... IT'S OKAY -- I MAY LOOK LIKE I JUST WENT TEN ROUNDS WITH A NUCLEAR DEVICE...
...hhh... BUT YOU SHOULD SEE THE OTHER GUY...
SO... YOU HAVING FUN YET..?

YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FLY TODAY, ARCHANGEL. FASTER, HIGHER... BETTER THAN EVER BEFORE.
THE VOID IS COMING, AND HE'S BRINGING THE PROVERBIAL BALL OF WAX -- EVERYTHING HE'S GOT THIS TIME. YOU THINK YOU UNDERSTOOD FEAR BEFORE?
THINK AGAIN.
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FLY TO YOUR DEATH TODAY -- BUT AT LEAST YOU'LL BE ABLE TO TAKE ONE COMFORTING THOUGHT WITH YOU INTO THIS FINAL BATTLE. IT'S A LESSON YOU LEARNED A LONG TIME AGO FROM A VERY WISE MAN:
THE ONLY WAY YOU'LL EVER TRULY FLY...
... IS TO LEARN HOW TO FALL.
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO LOOK INTO THE EYES OF A CREATURE THAT REPRESENTS NOT ONLY THE END OF YOU, BUT THE END OF EVERYTHING.